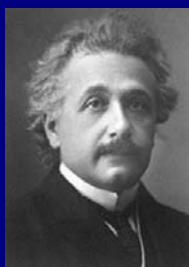


# How Can I Make A Difference?

*"A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labours of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving."*

**Albert  
Einstein**



This is a very important question and one with as many answers as there are individuals within the Defense National Stockpile. The first pages of this document talked about the inception of environmental awareness and what we as a society have done to address our concerns. The following paragraphs will offer some ideas about ways each person within this organization can make a difference.

We all need a framework to function within. The Defense National Stockpile has provided this framework and developed an environmental safety and occupational health management program. Operations that are affected by key environmental and safety laws/regulations have been evaluated. The Stockpile has dictated policies, procedures and goals that will ultimately allow us to achieve excellence through proactive environmental

management. Each of us has a clearly defined job with specific responsibilities. We have each been trained in the appropriate facets of the job. We will, as an organization, impose audits and corrective actions that will ensure that through our work effort, we are meeting objectives stipulated within our management plan. With thorough and complete record keeping, we will assess accountability through our auditing program and make recommendations. Then we will take the necessary steps to ensure all recommendations are effectively addressed. These are lofty objectives and something that will require the commitment of each member of the Defense National Stockpile. We must all be aware of adverse environmental impacts that can be a direct cause of our own procedures, if we do not carefully follow DNSC operating policies.

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Our environmental safety and occupational health policy statement (ESOH) is the backbone of our environmental management program. Presented in Appendix A, the statement contains essentially three distinct parts. The first part stresses the importance of proactive environmental stewardship and states that it is among one of our highest values. The second part of the statement lists the principles that the Defense National Stockpile will institute. These include not only policy actions but also philosophical ideals. The last part of the statement reinforces the importance of the employee's commitment, which is tantamount to the success of the program.

This clear, consistent and concise statement will resound through every procedure undertaken by this organization. Upon this comprehensive framework, roles and responsibilities of each employee will be continually evaluated to assure that we are meeting our environmental performance standards while effectively supporting the armed forces.

Now that we have developed a framework to function within, we still need to answer the question of, how can I make a difference? In order to be an effective environmental steward you must:

- Have a general awareness of the environmental laws and how they affect your work areas(s).



**Roger Tory Peterson  
1908 - 1996**

*There are few individuals that have impacted the simple appreciation of nature more than Roger Tory Peterson. He was an avid bird watcher and artist born in Jamestown, New York. He attended art school in New York, New York while continuing his love for bird watching. He was instrumental in developing birding groups that visited wooded areas around New York City. He knew that once you watch the activities of birds you become a naturalist because, through birds you can quickly view the impacts of environmental influences. You are able to readily see their life cycles, including their migration, mating, nesting, raising and nurturing of their young.*

*Roger Tory Peterson recognized that inexplicable harmony between man and nature. He celebrated that harmony, and the joy of its creatures, through his many paintings and informational field guides.*

- Identify and implement ways to prevent pollution.
- Report incidents that affect the environment and take the appropriate level of corrective action.
- Ensure that the Defense National Stockpile environmental and safety and health policies and procedures are being followed.
- Maintain an open and positive relationship with the community.

Table 1 is a list of pertinent federal environmental laws that impact DNSC activities. Please take the time to look at this list and see how each of your installations and/or job responsibilities may be affected by this legislation.

Appendices B and C provide definitions of terms and acronyms, respectively, that may help you understand these regulations

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You must not be satisfied with simply following the current legislation; instead, you should ask yourself important questions. The following two lists may help you focus on those facets of your job that have the potential to impact the environment. We have included only two position functions for this example, and they are by no means complete. They are offered only as information that can help you better evaluate your individual situation.



**Interesting Fact:**

- The average amount spent on office paper each year amounts to \$4 billion, with four million tons of paper being used. That amounts to 27 pounds per person. An average office worker uses 10,000 pieces of paper a year.

**Office Positions**

- Do I purchase supplies and/or equipment? Do I know what affirmative procurement is, and do I know how to use it?
- Is my work area neat? Could someone trip or fall over material stored in my area?
- Do I make copies of documents? Do I use the front and back of the paper?
- Do I use space heaters or fans in my area? Are they turned off when not in use and are

they equipped with some sort of “safety tip over switch?”

- Do I discard supplies such as used paper, drink cans/bottles, and ink cartridges? Am I currently recycling these items?
- Do I run additional office equipment from my desk such as a printer or a fax machine? Is this equipment energy saving (i.e., does it pause or shut off when not in use)?
- If there is an emergency, do I know whom to contact?
- Have I looked at the material safety data sheets (MSDS) for chemicals/office supplies I use in my daily activities? Do I know where updated copies of these are maintained?
- Do I maintain a comfortable conservative thermostat temperature setting in my office?
- Do I obey the no smoking and warning signs in the office?

**Think of some actions you can take at your installation to improve environmental compliances or lessen natural resources:**

- ✓ I can ???
- ✓ I will ???
- ✓ I shall ???

**“Because I am a key player in protecting the environment”**

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- Do I know what the fire alarm sounds like? If it sounds, do I know the evacuation procedure? Do I know what constitutes an emergency?
- Do I minimize the amount of new office supplies I use? Do I reuse old file folders and notebooks?
- Do I know where emergency equipment is located?
- Do I turn off the lights and radio when I leave my office?

#### **Interesting Facts:**

- Hunters are some of the strongest environmental advocates. One such example is the Izaak Walton League of America which has continued to promote environmental action for over 75 years. This organization of hunters and anglers fosters union with environmental issues to protect and conserve the outdoors.

#### **Fork Lift Operator and General Supply Specialist Positions**

- Do I inspect my equipment daily? Do I follow depot preventative maintenance operations on my equipment? Do I notify my supervisor if equipment is not working satisfactorily?
- Do I know where emergency equipment is located?
- Do I have complete understanding of how to perform my assigned task? Am I comfortable with the procedure I am directed to follow? Can I improve the procedure to make it safer or have less of an environmental impact?

- Do I know what different alarms sound like? If one sounds, do I know the appropriate procedure to follow?
- Do I obey all warning and hazard signs?
- If there is an emergency, do I know whom to contact? When or in what order should contacts be made?
- Do I have the appropriate personal protective equipment for the job?
- When I fill the equipment with fuel, do I make every effort to assure that I do not spill excess fuel from the hose? If there is a fuel leak, do I know what to do?
- Am I aware of the storm water plan for my installation?
- Do I have suggestions about management practices that could improve this plan?
- Is my work area clean and free of all debris?

**Remind yourself to continue to work safely and smartly in every task you undertake. I will be aware and remember to do this by:**

- ✓ **Using ???**
- ✓ **Understanding ???**
- ✓ **Asking ???**

**"Because I am a key player in protecting the environment"**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING**

ISO 14001/OHSAS 18001 Management System  
Defense National Stockpile Center

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Doc. No. ESOHAT Rev. No. 0

Date 3/5/03

How Can I Make a Difference?

These seem like very common sense ideas, and small in impact, but when instituted throughout an organization, they can bring about substantial positive change.

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# POLLUTION PREVENTION:

Pollution is defined as the presence of matter or energy whose nature, location or quantity produces undesirable effects. You minimize pollution when you turn off the lights or recycle paper. You make even more of a difference when you limit the amount of unnecessary trips you take in your vehicle, use paper instead of plastic bags at the store, and dispose of all trash in appropriate receptacles. These are ongoing issues, and as products and job functions change you must constantly assess how you can minimize, reduce or recycle the natural resources you utilize every day.

Pollution prevention is important because it:

- Eliminates the risks associated with any release of pollutants to the environment.
- Avoids shifts of pollution from one medium (air, water, or land) to another.
- Protects natural resources for future generations by eliminating or reducing wastes and conserving resources.

Pollution prevention benefits the National Defense Stockpile by:

- Making the workplace safer because workers have less contact with hazardous materials.
- Reducing environmental impacts because less pollution is created.
- Conserving resources because many materials are recycled or reused, or not used at all.
- Ensuring regulatory compliance with pollution prevention laws, as well as other environmental control regulations.
- Saving money spent on purchasing new materials and treating or disposing of waste.

Following are some examples of pollution prevention programs that have been designed to provide leadership in protecting the environment.

**In the seconds it takes you to read this sentence, 24 people will be added to the Earth's population. In six minutes, 1,100. Within an hour, 11,000. By day's end, 260,000. Before you go to bed two nights from now the net growth in human numbers will be enough to fill a city the size of San Francisco. It took four million years for humanity to reach the two billion mark. Only 30 to add a third billion. And now we're increasing by 95 million every single year.**

**No wonder they call it the human race.....**

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## Affirmative Procurement:

Have you taken the time to think about what merchandise and/or equipment you purchase, and how you go about purchasing it? The government has a policy named affirmative procurement and is part of our ESOH management plan.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Table 1) and Presidential Executive Order 13148 (April 21, 2000 Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management) as well as Department of Defense objectives have mandated that defense

agencies adopt environmental management systems.

The program is in its beginning stages and much of the tracking to be accomplished through the Department of Defense is not yet in place. This should not keep purchasing agents from investigating compliant forms of procurement. We must move from being a “global consumer to a world citizen” (W.M.. Von Vahren, *ISO 14001 Positioning Your Organization for Environmental Success*, ABS Consulting, 2000).



### William McDonough

William McDonough is a leading architect who “treat(s) nature as a model and mentor, not an inconvenience to be evaded and controlled.” He has developed technologies to create ecologically sustainable materials: “his research on fabrics and dyes free of toxins, mutagens, carcinogens, and endocrine disrupting chemicals led to a line of fabric so pure that the effluent water leaving the factory is cleaner than the water going in.”

Founded in 1981, the team of some 40 architects practices ecologically, socially and economically “intelligent” architecture and planning in the United States and abroad. Works include Herman Miller’s Greenhouse factory in Holland, Michigan, and Nike’s European Headquarters in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

In 1996, McDonough became the only individual to receive the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development, the nation’s highest environmental honor, presented by President Clinton in a White House ceremony. He also co-founded McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry, LLC, a product and systems development firm assisting client companies in implementing the firm’s unique designs.

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# Alternative Fuel Source Vehicles:

Another thing we could adopt as an organization would be the utilization of alternative fuel source vehicles (AFV). Every year the Defense National Stockpile researches the possibility of obtaining AFV's for our use. The problem remains that most of our sites

are remote, and there are no appropriate refueling stations within the work area. This is an on-going objective and we will continue to assess the situation. We remain hopeful that we will be able to take advantage of this effective conservation tool.

## Why Drive an Advanced or Alternative Fuel Vehicle?

- Transportation accounts for more than 67 percent of the oil we consume in the United States – more than we produce. Today, our country imports more than 54 percent of its oil supply, and it's estimated that this could increase to 75 percent by 2010.
- According to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, the average vehicle (car or light truck) on the road today emits more than 600 pounds of air pollution each year.
- The increased use of fossil fuels during the last century has created an enhanced greenhouse effect, known as global warming.

**By reducing vehicle emissions, AFVs and advanced vehicle technologies help combat both air pollution and global climate change.**

# Recycling:

The term recycling is defined as a set of processes for reclaiming material that would otherwise be disposed of as a material input into a product or service system. I think each of us has a better understanding of recycling. It is a common term in today's society and one that has taken on an ever-increasing importance. Literally every product, or some portion of it, has the potential to be recycled. The term has taken on a broader meaning and now encompasses reuse. Products change with time, as does our dependence on each of these products. We must learn

to choose our products wisely with forethought of their future. "The right price is one that includes the full cost of a product including all environmentally negative impacts triggered from cradle to grave, those incurred today and those incurred by future generations."

It is our hope that after this training each of you will take the time to investigate those materials you are using and determine if you can either purchase a more environmentally friendly alternative, recycle or reuse them.

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Something possibly every one of us may forget from time to time, is that we are public servants. We are paid to serve the American people and we should do it well!!!

At the very least, this must include communication with the public sector.

disagree with your policy objectives, they will respect and trust your ability to maintain and store material safely. Each of you must be aware of the environmental policy of this organization and how that works within your community. You are a representative of this organization and



## Senator Gaylord Nelson

Senator Nelson instituted one of the most powerful ideas of our times: Earth Day. Inspired by the teach-ins dealing with the Vietnam War, Earth Day was an instant success, drawing 20 million participants the first year (1970). American Heritage Magazine called the first Earth Day “one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy.”

Earth Day has fulfilled Senator Nelson’s goal of “a nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political establishment out of its lethargy and, finally, force this issue permanently onto the national political agenda.”

*Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 by President Clinton.*

How are we to know if we are serving the needs of our communities if we fail to ask them? We are members of the greater society, and each of us has our own agenda. It must be our goal to partner with members and groups within our communities to ensure that our own personal/ facility/ neighborhood agendas do not supercede the doctrines stipulated within the Defense National Stockpile’s environmental safety and occupational health management policy. At times you may meet with negativity and distrust; however, if you maintain a concise, clear, consistent message, and stand behind it, that attitude oftentimes will change. Although many people may

your actions count. When you depict a positive, open picture of the Defense National Stockpile, you can bring about affirmative change.

Remember community involvement does not simply include two parties, it includes many people with many separate ideas. Plan ahead before meeting with your communities and get to know them before negotiating. Try to develop a trusting relationship on both sides of the table. Your relationship will NOT end when the negotiations are over. As a civil servant representing a federal agency, you are a part of the community and you will interact on

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many levels with these individuals again in the future.

Some other ways of community outreach could include newsletters, open houses, and arbor/earth day activities. We challenge each of you to think about ways to inform the public about the Defense National Stockpile. Once you make the initial contacts, we are sure that you will be pleasantly surprised with the support you will receive from your surrounding communities.

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